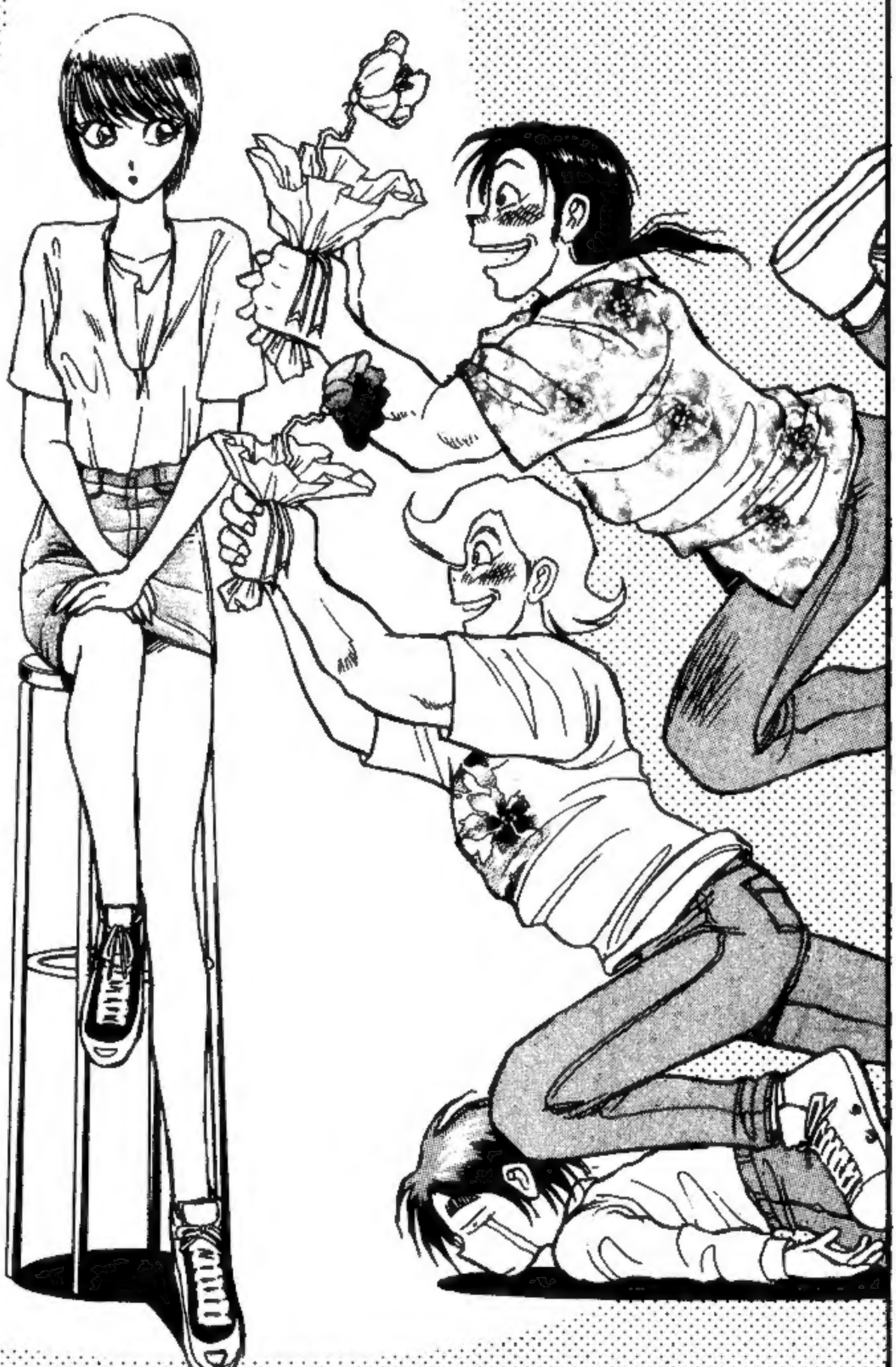
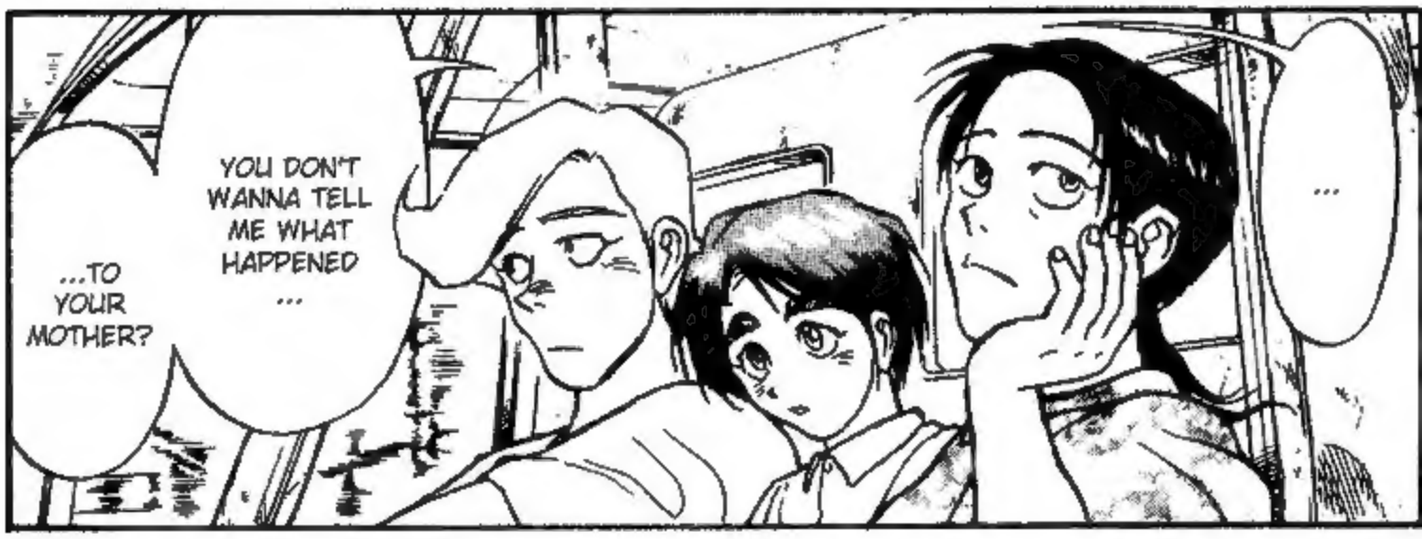
ACT IV: CIRCUS * HIRO AND NORI
CHAPTER TWO

"THEY ARE GETTING ANGRY"



GOOH


YOU DON'T WANNA TELL ME WHAT HAPPENED ...
...TO YOUR MOTHER?
...

YOU KNOW, YOU DON'T HAVE TO CALL ME "MOM."

THEY MUST HAVE LIVED THROUGH VERY DIFFI-CULT TIMES.
IF YOUR MOTHERS LEFT YOU, SURELY THERE WAS A GOOD REASON...

RROMM

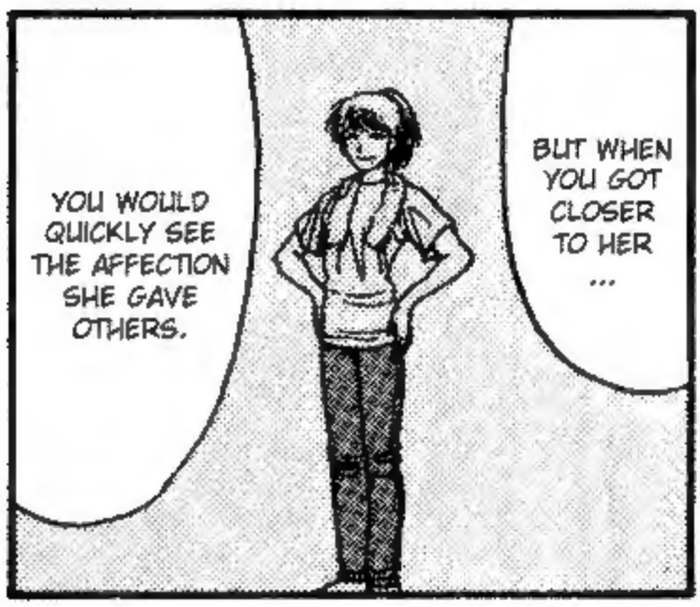
MM

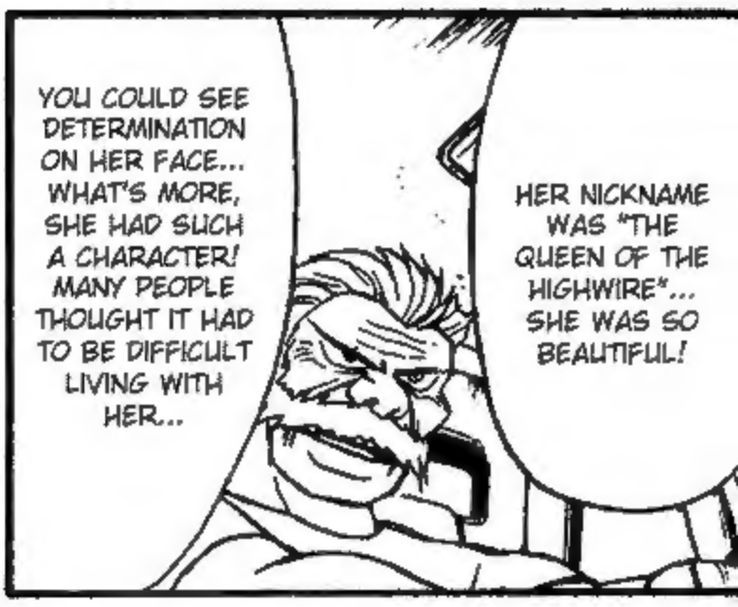
YES... SHE USED TO POST FLYERS IN THE STREETS OR GO TO THE POLICE...
DID YOU KNOW THAT SHE WAS LOOKING FOR OUR MOTHERS EVERY-WHERE WE WENT?
BY THE WAY, HIRO...
I'M SURE YOUR REAL MOTHERS WILL ONE DAY COME LOOKING FOR YOU!
BUT WHEN WE DID...
SHE NEVER WANTED US TO CALL HER "MOM"...
VROM
...SHE LOOKED SO HAPPY!
TO NORI AND HIRO...
...FUSAE WAS MORE THAN A REAL MOTHER!
R-R-O-O-M

THAT'S TRUE...
THEY DEFINITELY WOULD LEAVE IF SOMEONE WERE TO COME FOR THEM.
THESE CHILDREN DIDN'T COME HERE BECAUSE THEY LIKED THE CIRCUS.

NO...
IF IT MAKES YOU SO HAPPY WHEN THEY CALL YOU MOM, WHY DON'T YOU LET THEM?
WE'VE ADOPTED HIRO AND NORI NOW...

...I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO DEAL WITH IT!
THEY SAID, "GOOD-BYE, MOM"...
ON THAT DAY...
SO, IF...

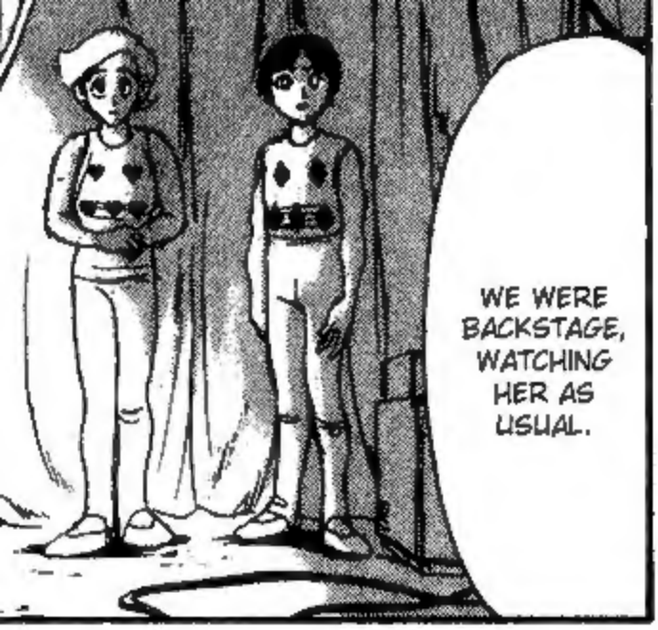

YOU WOULD QUICKLY SEE THE AFFECTION SHE GAVE OTHERS.
BUT WHEN YOU GOT CLOSER TO HER ...


YOU COULD SEE DETERMINATION ON HER FACE... WHAT'S MORE, SHE HAD SUCH A CHARACTER! MANY PEOPLE THOUGHT IT HAD TO BE DIFFICULT LIVING WITH HER...
HER NICKNAME WAS "THE QUEEN OF THE HIGHWIRE"... SHE WAS SO BEAUTIFUL!

... LIKE YOU, SHIROGANE ...
A LITTLE BIT...

YOU STILL HAVEN'T MANAGED TO TAME THIS KID?
DO YOU THINK THAT IF I WERE MARRIED, THE YOUNG MASTER WOULD TALK TO ME DIFFERENTLY?
...NO!
I'M JUST A PUPPET ...
I UNDER-STAND VERY WELL THAT WE DO NOT HAVE A VERY...
...NORMAL RELATION-SHIP.
AS IF HE WERE EMBAR-RASSED TO TALK TO ME.
WHEN HE TALKS TO ME... EVERY TIME...
...HE SEEMS TO BE SORRY...
...
I THINK YOUR RELATIONSHIP WON'T BE ABLE TO CHANGE AS LONG AS YOU REMAIN A SIMPLE GOVERNESS, WHO IS THERE ONLY TO SERVE HIM...
SO, IF I WERE CLOSER TO HIM... MAYBE...
FUSAE SCOLDED THE BOYS VERY OFTEN...
...WHEN THEY DID DANGEROUS THINGS, OR WHEN THEY CAUSED ACCI-DENTS, EVEN INVOLUN-TARILY.
BRMMM
AH?

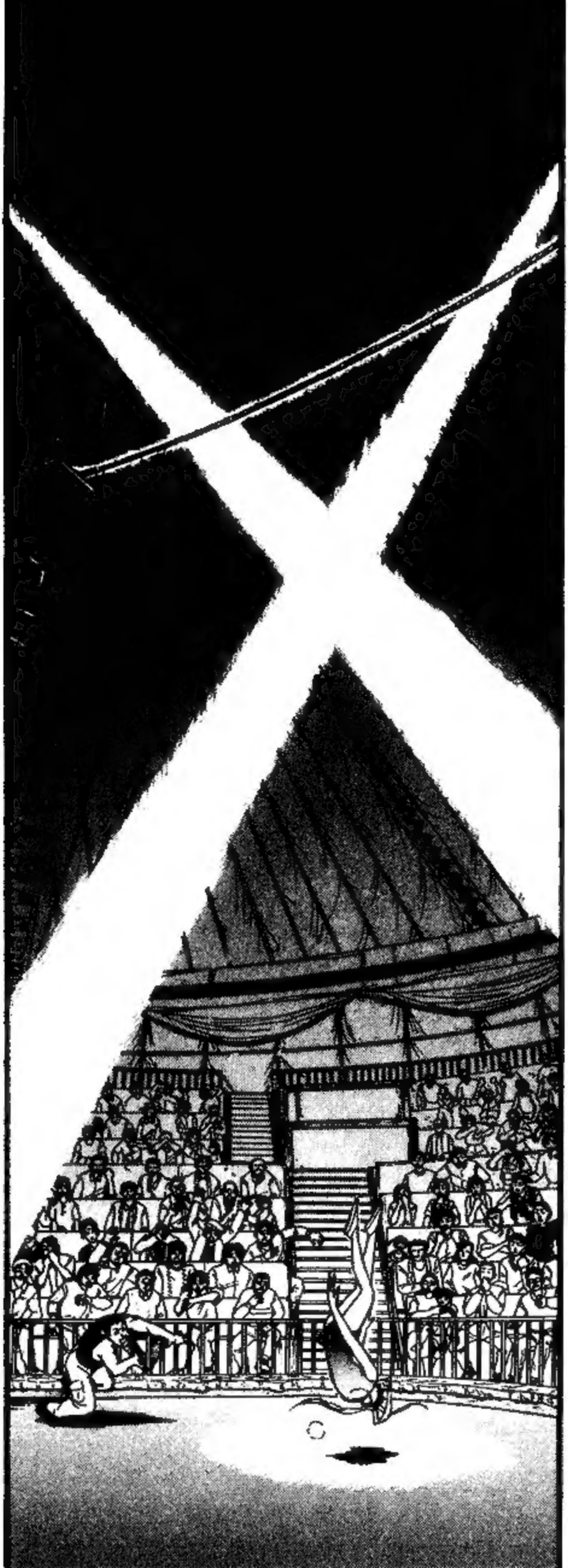
VRROMM
BUT YOU...
... WOULD YOU BE able TO REPRIMAND MASARU?
CIRQUE NAKAMACHI
SHE SCOLDED THEM.
EVEN ON THE DAY SHE DIED, UNTIL THE VERY LAST MOMENT...
FUSAE ...
WHAT ARE YOU BABBLING ABOUT?! TO A REAL CIRCUS ARTIST, A LITTLE FEVER IS NOTHING ONCE SHE'S IN THE RING!
YOU HAVE TO REST SOME MORE!
MOM, YOUR FEVER IS TOO HIGH!
IT HAPPENED IN NAGOYA ...
OUAAHH!

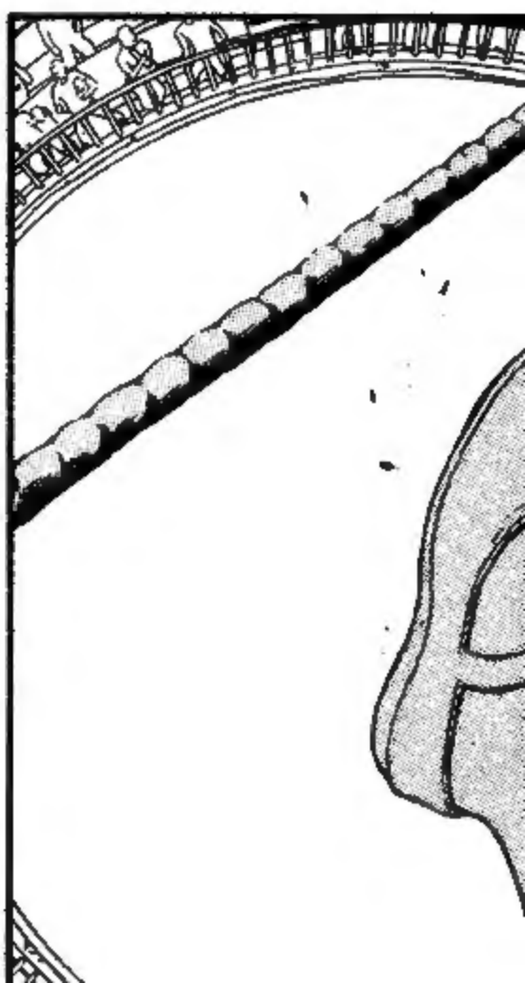

WE WERE BACKSTAGE, WATCHING HER AS USUAL.

IT WAS SEVEN YEARS AGO...
YES, EXACTLY ...

SHE WAS SO BEAUTIFUL...
SHE LOOKED LIKE ONE OF THE FAIRIES PEOPLE DESCRIBE IN CHILDREN'S TALES...

SHE HAD FINISHED HER NUMBER AND WAS GETTING READY TO COME DOWN...





WE RAN TO HER AS FAST AS WE COULD.
PEOPLE WERE SHOUTING AROUND THE RING ...
QUICKLY... BRING IN... THE NEXT ACT...
GET ME OUT OF THE RING QUICKLY... OR ELSE... THE AUDIENCE... WILL WORRY TOO MUCH...
NO!!!
HIRO, NORI! COME HERE!
GENTLY! BE CAREFUL WHEN YOU LIFT HER!

...EH!

ME, TOO! I WANNA STAY WITH HER!
NO! I WANNA STAY WITH MOM!

...TILL THE END!
THE SHOW MUST GO ON ...
IN A CIRCUS ...

BUT...
YOU HAVE TO DO THE LAST ACT... ON THE UNICYCLE.
CHIL- DREN ...

MOMMY?

MOMMY!!

IF I COME BACK ...
THEN...
...I'LL BECOME YOUR REAL MOMMY.

UNFOR-TUNATELY ...

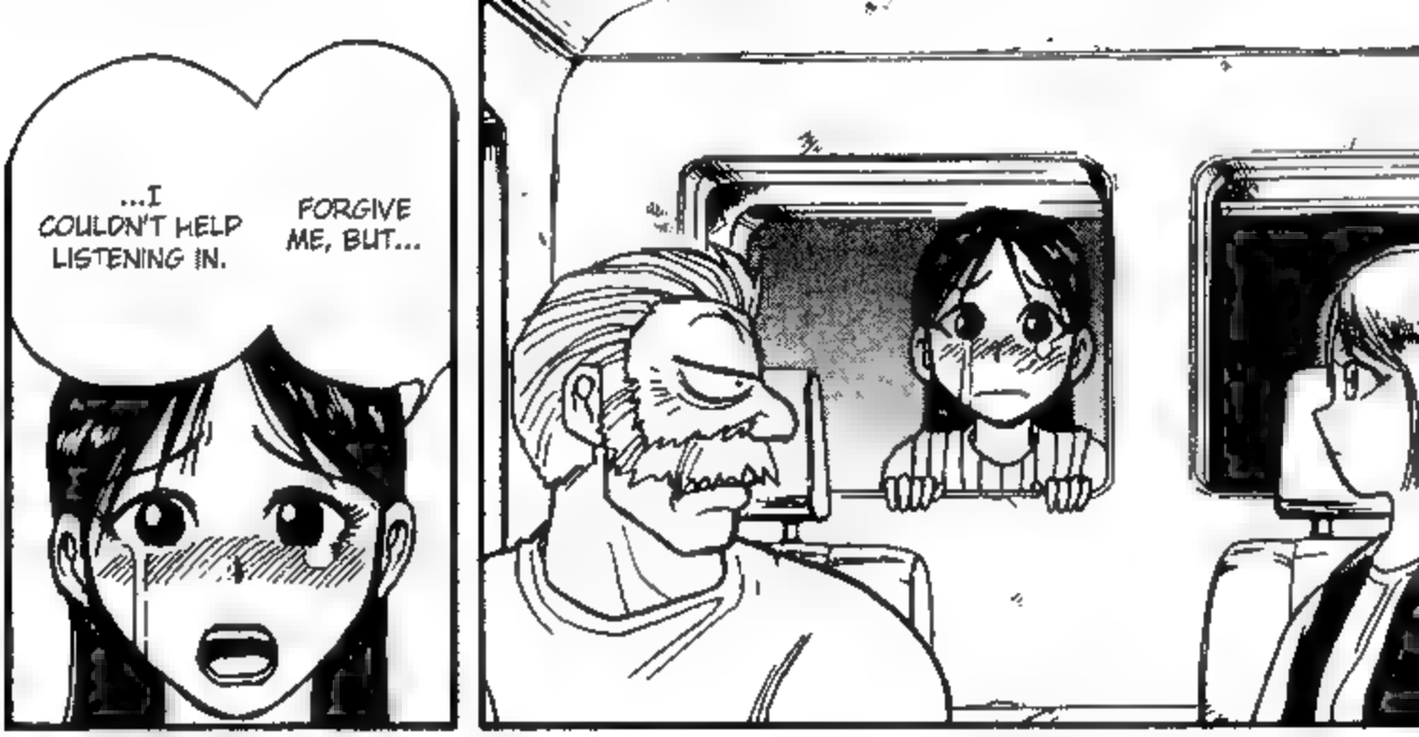
I...
BUT...
BOUH
BOUH

HEY, MASARU! YOU DON'T HAVE TO CRY LIKE THAT!
SNIF
SNIF

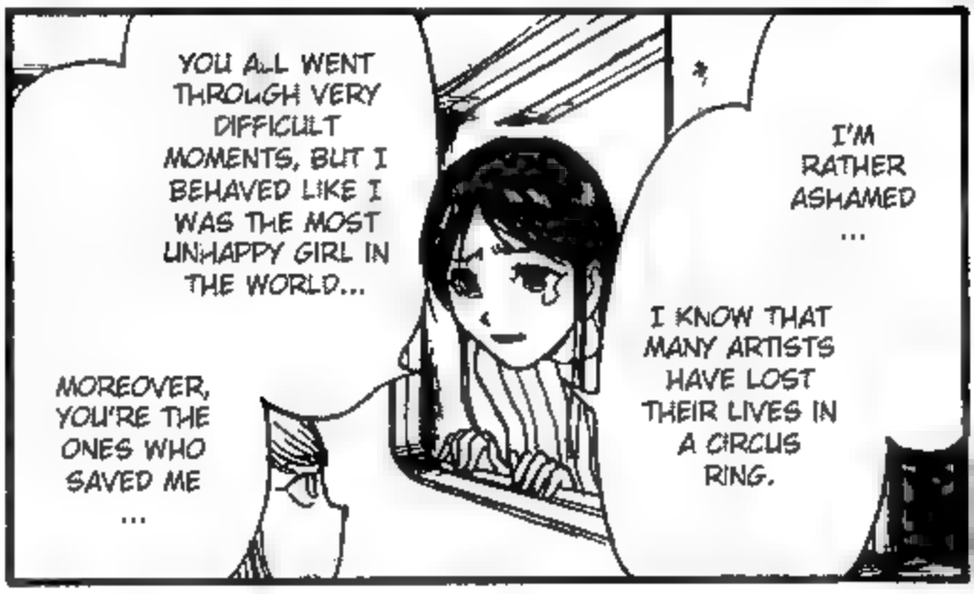
...SHE NEVER CAME BACK... NEVER...
SNIF
SNIF

HIRO, YOU PINCHED HIS CHEEK TOO HARD EARLIER!
NOT AT ALL! HE'S CRYING BECAUSE YOU TOLD HIM HE WAS WEIRD!
BOUH HOU
MY SINCERE CONDO-LENCES, MR. NAKA-MACHI...
HA HA HA! DON'T BE SO FORMAL! YOU DIDN'T EVEN KNOW HER.
ANYWAY, THAT ALREADY HAPPENED SEVEN YEARS AGO.
NO MATTER WHAT PEOPLE DO...
WHEN YOU DIE...
...EVERY-THING IS OVER!
YOU THINK YOU HAVE TO BECOME LIKE FUSAE?
I'M SURE THAT YOU DON'T NEED THAT AT ALL!
"IF YOU DON'T VALUE YOUR OWN LIFE...
YOU'LL NEVER UNDERSTAND THE VALUE OF THE LIFE OF ANY HUMAN BEING!"

I DON'T SEE THEM LIKE THAT VERY OFTEN! USUALLY, AS SOON AS THERE IS A GIRL AROUND, THEY IMMEDIATELY GO HIT ON HER!
...
BUT THEY'VE NEVER BEEN IN LOVE WITH A CIRCUS ARTIST BEFORE.
AH?
HA HA HA! YOU KNOW THAT HIRO AND NORI ARE CRAZY ABOUT YOU, DON'T YOU?
BUT...
STILL... I'M NOT...
BUT STOP FOCUSING ON THIS AND THAT!
AND I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU THINK OF YOURSELF ...
LISTEN, I DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOUR LIFE...
BUT... I'M NOT...
SOME-THING... INSIDE ME?!?
... SOMETHING YOU DON'T REALIZE YET. BUT IT REMINDS THEM A LOT OF FUSAE.
HIRO AND NORI PROBABLY ARE IN LOVE WITH SOME-THING INSIDE YOU...


...I COULDN'T HELP LISTENING IN.
FORGIVE ME, BUT...

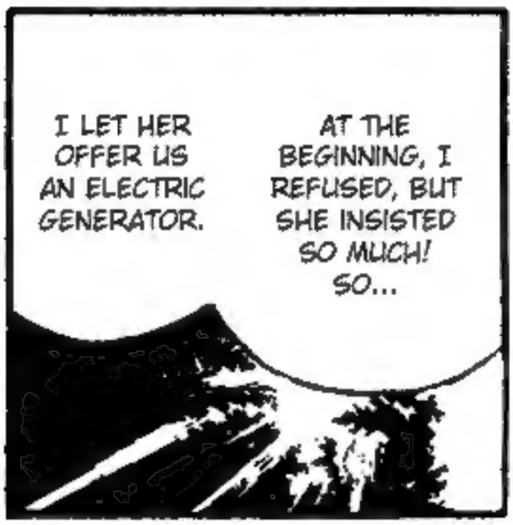
TELL ME HOW I COULD HELP YOU IN RETURN!!


YOU ALL WENT THROUGH VERY DIFFICULT MOMENTS, BUT I BEHAVED LIKE I WAS THE MOST UNHAPPY GIRL IN THE WORLD...
I'M RATHER ASHAMED ...
I KNOW THAT MANY ARTISTS HAVE LOST THEIR LIVES IN A CIRCUS RING.
MOREOVER, YOU'RE THE ONES WHO SAVED ME ...

EH? WHY ARE WE STOPPING HERE?

CENTRAL BANK
CENTRAL BANK
IIKK

SHE WOULD LIKE TO ...
REALLY? WE WERE TALKING ABOUT HER, TOO!
TARANDA HEARD ME RECOUNT YOUR MOTHER'S STORY...


I LET HER OFFER US AN ELECTRIC GENERATOR.
AT THE BEGINNING, I REFUSED, BUT SHE INSISTED SO MUCH! SO...

PLEAAASE! LET ME OFFER YOU SOMETHIIING!
BZOING

HEY, YOU! STOP CRYING!
THANK YOU, TARANDA! THANK YOU!

SHE'S GOING TO WITHDRAW SOME MONEY FROM THIS BANK...
WOOHOO! A GENERATOR! HOORAY FOR TECHNOLOGY!

SAH

IT'S TRUE THAT IT IS QUITE HOT!
LET'S GO COOL OFF INSIDE. THEY'VE GOT TO HAVE AC ...

SILVER BANK
CENTRAL BANK
LOANS AT THE LOWEST RATES

N...NOBODY MOVE!!!
OR ELSE... I... I'LL BLOW EVERYTHING UP!
EVEN THEN, YOU KNOW VERY WELL... I CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT YOU BY MY SIDE! PLUS, SINCE YOU'VE LEFT ME, I'VE COMPLETELY STOPPED DRINKING... YOU UNDERSTAND, FUSAE?!
...AND NEITHER WILL THE CHILDREN!
I'VE TOLD YOU ALREADY, I WON'T COME BACK TO LIVE WITH YOU!
I'M BEGGING YOU! STOP!
SHUT UP!

HEY, YOU! GET DOWN!
BOH
TON
... FUSAE ?!?
LEAVE THE KIDS AND COME BACK TO ME!
I DON'T CARE ABOUT THE KIDS! THEY DON'T LOVE ME! I NEVER WANNA SEE THEM AGAIN!
ANYWAY ...
BUT YOU, FUSAE... YOU HAVE TO COME BACK!
MY EX-HUSBAND USED TO WORK IN A CHEMICAL PLANT! THIS IS REAL DYNAMITE!
STOP!
BASTARD! AREN'T YOU ASHAMED ?!
DYNAMITE #3
... WHAT?!
YOU STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND? ... WHEN I LEFT YOU, I WAS ABLE TO GET MY JOB BACK AT THE BANK! I WAS ABLE TO START A NEW LIFE!
YOU STOP, TOO!

JUST GO AHEAD IF YOU FEEL LIKE IT!
SHUT UP! I DON'T GIVE A DAMN! IF YOU DON'T COME BACK WITH ME, I'M BLOWING US ALL UP!!
...WE'RE GONNA MAKE MUSH OUT OF YOU WAY BEFORE YOU BLOW US ALL UP!
BUT BELIEVE ME... IF YOU CAN DITCH YOUR OWN KIDS THAT EASILY...
DON
OON
GET BACK DOWN!
GO AHEAD! BLOW EVERY-THING UP!